

Serial No.: 09/714,316

Art Unit: 3617

Examiner: VASUDEVA, Ajay

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A cover for an outboard motor comprising:

a lower cover;

an upper cover configured for attachment to said lower cover;

and

at least one air intake silencer attached to one of said upper cover and said lower cover and comprising:

at least one air inlet pipe comprising a first end, a second end, and an inlet passage therethrough; and

at least one tuning tube comprising a first end, a second end, and a tuning passage therethrough, said tuning passage in fluid communication with said inlet passage and extending for a length selected to cancel noise of at least a first selected frequency passing through said inlet pipe.

10. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said upper cover comprises a top wall, said at least one air intake silencer attached to said top wall.

11. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 9 wherein each of said upper cover and said lower cover comprises at least one side wall, said at least one air intake silencer attached to at least one side wall of said upper cover and said lower cover.

12. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said lower cover comprises a bottom wall, said at least one air intake silencer attached to said bottom wall.

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13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A cover in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said at least one air inlet pipe and said at least one tuning tube comprise an air intake manifold.

15. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said air inlet pipe is straight.

16. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said tuning tube comprises a first segment in flow communication with said inlet passage, a second segment in flow communication with said inlet passage, and a third segment extending between said first segment and said second segment and in flow communication with said first segment and said second segment.

17. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 16, said first segment and said second segment are separated from one another along an axis of said inlet pipe.

18. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said tuning tube and said air inlet pipe have substantially equal diameters.

19. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising at least another tuning tube in a wrap-around relationship with said at least one tuning tube.

20. (Previously Presented) A cover in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said at least one air inlet pipe and said at least one tuning tube are integrally formed.

21. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor engine comprising:
a motor cover;
at least one air inlet for engine intake air; and

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an air intake silencer coupled to said air inlet and integrally formed with said motor cover, said air intake silencer comprising at least one air inlet pipe coupled to said air inlet and at least one tuning tube in flow communication with said air inlet pipe, said air inlet pipe and said tuning tube configured to cancel a portion of sound traveling through said air inlet pipe.

22. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor engine in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said air inlet pipe is straight.

23. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor engine in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said tuning tube comprises a first segment in flow communication with an inlet pipe passage, a second segment in flow communication with said inlet pipe passage, and a third segment extending between said first segment and said second segment and in flow communication with said first segment and with said second segment.

24. (Original) An outboard motor engine in accordance with Claim 23 wherein said first segment and said second segment are separated from one another along an axis of said inlet pipe.

25. (Original) An outboard motor engine in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said tuning tube and said air inlet pipe have substantially equal diameters.

26. (Original) An outboard motor engine in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising at least another tuning tube, said at least another tuning tube in a wrap-around relationship with said at least one tuning tube.

27. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor engine in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said at least one air inlet pipe and said at least one tuning tube are integrally formed.

28. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor engine in accordance with Claim 27 wherein said air inlet pipe and said at least one tuning tube comprise an air intake manifold.

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29. - 31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) An air intake silencer comprising:
an air inlet tube having an inlet, an outlet, a first opening, and a second opening space a distance from the first opening and of substantially similar size to the first opening;

a tuning tube connected between the first opening and the second opening of the air inlet tube and having a length greater than the distance between the first and second openings in the inlet tube and arranged such that noise traveling simultaneously into the tuning tube and through the inlet tube converge at the second opening; and

wherein the air intake silencer is incorporated into an outboard engine.

33. (Previously Presented) The air intake silencer of claim 32 wherein the length of the tuning tube is longer than the length between the first and second openings in the air inlet tube such that noise traveling through the tuning tube exits the tuning tube about one-half wavelength behind noise traveling through the air intake tube.

34. (Previously Presented) The air intake silencer of claim 32 wherein the tuning tube is in continual communication with the air intake tube.

35. (Canceled)